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Editor & Proprietor.

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To the People of Mississippi.

In the month of September last, when a vacancy occurred in the Democratic State ticket, by the withdrawal of the candidate for the office of Governor of the State, and the Democracy nominated me to supply the vacancy, I resigned the office of U. States Senator, which I then held for six years from the 4th of March 1851. My opponent was also an United States Senator, having two years from the 4th of March 1851, that being the unexpired portion of his term. It was announced in various forms that he would resign his commission of Senator before the approaching election of November, and in the month of October, a certain Whig newspaper published his election published a statement that he had resigned the office of United States Senator. This, however, proved to be a convenient arrangement, which did in no wise interfere with the privileges and prerogatives of the station, and finally did not vacate the office which he held. Before that event which did annul his commission of United States Senator, viz: his inauguration as Governor, he resigned his seat in the Senate, and there, through the published debates, sent out to the world statements in relation to myself which he had never availed himself of the abundant opportunities he had possessed to make in my presence. I therefore take this mode to make that reply which I would have made in person; had my resignation been such a fiction as still to have left me in the Senate when the statements were made.

In the daily Union of December 20, 1851, a speech of Mr. Foote, of Mississippi, is reported in what appears to be a revised form, from which I make the following extract:

"In like manner difficulties which we encountered have been 'fortunately adjusted by the compromise.' Had it not been adopted, I fear civil war would have ensued. In fact, I could name the military leaders who were expected by their admiring friends to gain immortal glory in the anticipated conflict of arms. The honorable Senator from Carolina (Mr. Rhetts) attended public meetings, at which two distinguished military gentlemen of my own State were named as the persons best suited to command the armies of the South in the war then expected to occur. I believe that he himself aided in doing anticipated honor to one or both of them as such. Each one of those persons, too, was nominated to the presidency of the Southern Republic. They were marked out for military and civil honors by hundreds of tracts drunk on various occasions. They were especially referred to by Mr. Pickens of South Carolina, in a letter addressed to a committee in my own State, who invited him to attend what is known to all of us as the 'Quintman festival,' as the selected 'leaders' of the South in the contest of arms then looked on as impending."

Mr. Rhetts, "Will the gentleman allow me to say a single word in justice to others?"

Mr. Foote, "I will allow the Senator at any time to make an explanation, although he has not always granted that privilege to myself."

Mr. Rhetts, "I do not propose to say anything more in relation to myself. I say only that I think the South or her leaders ought to be distinguished men here. I presume he alludes to persons in his own State; he says that I was present at a meeting at which they were spoken of as the military leaders of the South."

Mr. Foote, "What I said was this: that tenets were drunk at a meeting at which the honorable Senator was present, which referred to them as leaders of the South in the event of a civil war; and at which they were also nominated as suitable persons to be at the head of a Southern Republic."

Mr. Rhetts, "I know of no meeting at which I was present, at which they were spoken of as military leaders of the South. I never believed one word of all that has been said in relation to the blood to be shed in such a contest. Perhaps some may have been given to the President of a Southern Confederacy; but as to war and bloodshed, I never believed there would be anything of the sort."

Mr. Foote, "I tell the gentleman that Mr. Pickens, whose name I never mention with any intention of doing him disrespect—did write a letter which was published in several papers of Mississippi, which I put into my scrap-book and read every day as a part of each of some hundred speeches or so, in which he did designate Gen. Quintman and Col. Davis as the selected leaders of the South in the contest of arms then expected by certain persons in South Carolina. I say that, in my opinion, a civil war was confidently expected in my own State, and in other States of the Union by certain persons."

Does the gentleman mean to say to his readers, taken in connection with my reply, that I and those with whom I acted in Mississippi, confidently expected a civil war? This would be an assumption wholly unfounded and worse than gratuitous. No one knows better than himself that my course in the Senate relieves me from such suspicion. I defy him to produce anything said by me which warrants the conclusion. I invite a comparison between his language and my own upon that and kindred subjects. Nor can the accusation be more justifiable when applied to those with whom I acted in the late canvass in Mississippi. Their position was defined by the general convention, which nominated the State ticket and must have been known to me who was there in the field as a candidate. In the fifteenth of the series of resolutions which constitute their platform for the canvass, they said:

"Resolved, That the advocates of State Rights are the true friends of the South, and of the Union; and that no right can be more clearly or more essentially to the protection of the minority, than the right of the State to withdraw from the Union without any other obstruction from any man; but whilst we mean the right, we consider it the last remedy, the last alternative, and also declare that the exercise of it by the State of Mississippi, under existing circumstances, would be inexpedient, and a proposition which does not meet the approval of this Convention."

This surely does not look like a candid expectation of civil war. There is the declaration that they did not contemplate secession, and that if it was the last alternative, it should be resorted to, if it should be deemed expedient. This was the last and

only position of the party upon the subject. Unless then, there be certain persons who have run to such extreme of consolidation as to believe that the Federal government would make war upon the State if that position was endorsed by the people; that the President would call out the army and navy to reform their political opinions; I do not perceive how or why 'civil war' was confidently expected in the gentleman's own State. It will be remembered by many who heard me during the canvass, that so far as I treated of civil conflict in another State, (South Carolina), it was to deprecate it, and argue for our policy as that which would best serve to avert the calamity. But it was announced by Senator Foote, that two gentlemen of Mississippi were referred to, at a meeting at which Mr. Rhetts of South Carolina was present, as the leaders of the South in the event of civil war, and as suitable persons to be at the head of a Southern Republic; that at meetings attended by Mr. Rhetts, they had been marked out for military and civil honors by hundreds of tracts drunk on various occasions; he had previously said that he could name the military leaders who were expected by their admiring friends to gain immortal glory in the anticipated conflict of arms. Thanks to the generous interposition of Mr. Rhetts, to shield from injustice about Mississippians who were assailed by the representative of their own State, the names were brought out—Gen. Quintman and Col. Davis. This is not the first petty fling which has been made at me as a military leader. The gentleman it seems cannot forgive the offence of having attracted the kind consideration of my fellow-citizens by such services as it was my fortune to render in the war with Mexico.

But I address myself to the assertion made, and ask where, when and by whom were those tracts drunk, that selection made, that nomination announced? Having never seen or heard of my selection as a military leader of the South in an anticipated civil war, or of my nomination as the head of a proposed Southern Confederacy, or of one toast connecting my name with either or both positions, I must have proof before I believe the occurrence to have been so frequent as is represented.

If it has been done in any case, whenever I learn when and by whom, it will be easy for me to obtain the most conclusive evidence that it was without any understanding with, or good reason to suppose the proposition would be acceptable to me.

As to the letter of Mr. Pickens, the contents of which I do not accurately remember, and of which I have no copy, I will only say that having been written in answer to an invitation to a festival in honor of Gen. Quintman, it is not at all surprising that he should particularly have noticed the distinguished military services of Gen. Quintman, nor that he should have connected with him many names of Mississippians as a complimentary reference to the State. Mr. Pickens is only known to me through his public reputation, and the commanding talent which has made his name familiar to us all. We have no personal acquaintance and have had no correspondence. He might have applied to my late colleague of the Senate to learn my position; the reverse is not a supposable case. The reliance upon that letter must be taken as evidence that the gentleman had but narrow foundation for his broad assertion.

In the daily Union of December 28, 1851, Mr. Foote is reported on the 20th of that month, in reply to a statement of Mr. Rhetts as to what had occurred between those gentlemen when their relations seem to have been closer than now, to have said:

"If the gentleman had known what peculiar difficulties we had to encounter in Mississippi; if he had known what peculiar Taylor-Cass speeches were made there by persons who possessed a particular influence—which made me leave certain duties which I was performing here, for the purpose of contemplating movements elsewhere—he would perhaps have perceived that circumstances had occurred which I had no right to anticipate at the time of that conversation. These circumstances were of such a nature as even to justify some surprise that the State was not carried by 10,000 majority against us."

The allusions to Taylor-Cass speeches which I presume he so generally understood to have referred to me, that it would seem like affectation to doubt it. I will apply the test of fact to the whole statement. Those speeches he says compelled him to leave duties he was performing at Washington. The first speech I made in the Presidential canvass of 1848 was at Raymond, having gone there by invitation to a meeting for two days of joint discussion. I arrived late and found Gen. Foote upon the stand erected for the speakers. If he alluded to my speeches, telegraphic speed would not serve to reconcile the statement with the fact; if it was not to me then to whom did he allude? Again, what was there in my speeches which he had no right to anticipate? He knew before the Nicholson letter was printed that I was not satisfied with it. He knew that I honored Gen. Taylor as a patriot soldier and an honest man. In the few counties which my physical strength enabled me to visit I rendered justice to Gen. Taylor as a man who had rendered service to his country. I acknowledged my obligations to him for acts of kindness done to Mississippi's cause when under his command. Thus I was willing to pay the debt of gratitude I felt to be due to him. With all the power I possessed, I urged upon those whom I addressed the support of General Cass as the democratic candidate for the Presidency, always objecting to his doctrine of squatter sovereignty, but arguing that the opinion was unconnected with the duties which would devolve upon him if elected President of the United States. Are these the circumstances which render it surprising that we did not vote for the State by a majority of ten thousand? I believe that that every speech made to deprecate Gen. Taylor, increased his strength.

He possessed the affection and confidence of the people, and I have no doubt that he was due to his capacity and his character drove many Democrats to his support, who otherwise would have maintained their party allegiance. The few speeches that I made could have produced but little effect, but that they were not very potent for evil, is conclusively shown by the election returns of those counties which I visited. They were, I believe, all carried by the Union men, Warren and Taylor. If the Democratic party through

out the State had sustained its ticket as well as in these counties there would have been no loss which would have called for an explanation.

I have noticed only those points in the speeches I have referred to, which were, or seemed to be, directed particularly at myself, and have I trust observed that temperance in language which, proper at all times, is especially suggested by the present position of him whose remarks I have felt myself called upon to answer. It has been done as a duty to my own reputation, to those with whom I was associated, and above all to the cause in which we labored.

Your fellow-citizen,
JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Warren co., Miss., Jan. 26, 1852.

Lola Montes—Past Present and Future.

From the New York Herald.

MR. DENNETT—I am sure you will not refuse a stranger, and that stranger a woman, a little space in your paper, for an appeal to an intelligent and generous community, against unjust and libelous attacks upon her, intended to prejudice the people against her.

I am sure, too, that the good-hearted American people, and of this noble city, will read of the tales of suffering by the hand of a cruel and unfeeling man, and protect her against such a fate.

I know that the American gentleman and ladies will frown on any who are guilty of rude, insulting and vulgar treatment of a visitor to their free, hospitable and happy land. I know they will sympathize with a female who seeks to deport herself unobtrusively and becomingly, when she is forced to go into the newspapers to defend herself, and if she shows she is right, I am confident they will sustain her.

Since childhood, when I first came to know of America, my heart yearned to visit her, and I have been ever since a pilgrim who first came hither, a road of the progress of their noble descendants—their resistance to British oppression, and of the glorious deeds of Washington, "peerless among peers," of Jefferson, and Franklin, and Fulton, and Jackson—I studied your institutions, and all my dreams of romance were connected with your country.

My career has been one of such vicissitude and adventure, that I almost equal those given in popular works of fiction. I sometimes look back on my life and wonder—"Is this true?" "Have I existed?"—"do I live?"

It is all a dream. I have been wild and wayward, but I know myself, never wicked. I can appeal to every companion or servant in my whole life, of my own sex, to say if I ever treated them unjust, unkindly, and I will add, ungenerously. I have been traduced, slandered, and vilified more, I think, than any human being, man or woman, than has lived for a century. If all that is said of me were true—my, if half of it were true—I ought to be buried alive. The very atrocities attributed to me, themselves show their falsehood. At the age of thirteen, in London, and well-meaning friends constrained me to associate with one much my senior in years, but who had not my affections, who did not seek to win them, and from whom I was obliged to part myself. No one ever accused me of falsehood to my vows of fidelity to him. We were divorced. By that separation I was thrown upon the world friendless, without resources, or any means of support, except my own industry and humble abilities. I was in the East Indies. I went to England, and from thence to the Continent, and became, as the only resource for an honorable and virtuous livelihood, an actress and a dancer. I encountered all those terrible trials incident to a resolution to take care of myself without dependence upon any one. My profession exposed me to the approaches of the licentious—the slanders of the malicious—the detraction of the envious. I was defenceless, except in a reliance on my rectitude of purpose and conduct. My enemies—I made enemies because I was a proud woman—a self-willed woman—an ambitious woman, if you will, but an honorable woman, who would not become their instrument of wickedness—my enemies, by falsehood and forgery, and every species of crime, have assailed me, and hunted me throughout Europe and Great Britain, and now pursue me to America—but I defy—I proudly defy the assaults of all these enemies. 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